पब्लिसिटी विदेशों में दे दें और इलैक्ट्रोनिक मीडिया में दे दें, बोर्डस बनाएं, विदेशों में आफिसेज बनाएं और यहां भी आफिसेज बनाएं । अब आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता क्या हुआ कि राज्य सरकारों ने समझ लिया कि उनका पर्यटन से कोई संबंध नहीं है, वह पी० डब्लू० डी० और बाकी चीजों में पैसा लगाते हैं और पर्यटन के विभाग में कोई भी पैसा नहीं लगाते और अब हालत यह हो गई है कि हम जो यहां से थोड़ा बहुत पैसा भी देते हैं, मेरे ख्याल में 80 परसेंट स्टेट उसको भी यूटिलाईज नहीं करती हैं । मैं इन-जनरल कह रहा हूं और इन-पर्टिकूलर बिहार का कह रहा हूं, क्योंकि आपने बिहार का जिक्र किया है । बिहार के लिए तो हमने जापान की मदद से बोध गया के लिए एक स्कीम बनाई थी । लेकिन बजाय इसके कि राज्य सरकार अपना पैसा लगाए, जो हम पैसा देते हैं उसको भी वह तनख्वाहों में बांट देते हैं । तो पर्यटन कैसे बढ़ेगा ? तो मेरा निवेदन है कि चाहे अगर अपना पैसा नहीं भी लगाएं, लेकिन जो हम पैसा देते हैं कम से कम अगर वह भी लगाएंगे तो कुछ न कुछ बनेगा । जहाज देने में मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है । लेकिन, सर, अगर हम जहाज बना लें और वहां इन्का स्ट्रक्चर नहीं होगा, वहां होटल नहीं होगा, रेस्ट हाऊस नहीं होगा, गैस्ट हाऊस नहीं होगा, सड़क नहीं होगी तो इससे क्या होगा ? तो यह जो जापान की स्कीम है, यह कई सालों से चल रही थी और दो साल में, तीन साल में उसको खत्म करना चाहिए था । लेकिन पिछले साल तक वह नहीं बनी और फिर हम जापान के पास गए हैं और दो साल के लिए हमने एक्सटेंशन मांगी है । मुझे नहीं लगता है कि दो साल में भी उस पैसे को खर्च किया जाएगा । इसलिए मेरा एम० पी० साहब से निवेदन है, बोध गया के एयरपोर्ट के बारे में आज सुबह ही मेरी मुख्य मंत्री जी से बातें हुई हैं । वहां एयरपोर्ट तो बनाना आसान होगा, लेकिन जो पैसा दो साल से, पांच साल से जापान की मदद से दिया जा रहा है, उसका उपयोग करिए तो सब ठीक हो जाएगा ।

श्री बुद्ध देव आदित्य पात्रवान : आप स्वयं महत्वाकांक्षी योजनाएं बनाकर कार्यान्वित करें तो अच्छा होगा..... (**व्यवधान**) आप जो पैसा देते हैं, ठीक उस पैसे की हालत उसी तरह से होती है जिस तरह से देहातों में ऊनी पीस का कपड़ा भेजा जाए तो लोग उसका कुर्ता सिला लेते हैं ।..... (**व्यवधान**)

Revision of counter trade Policy

*323. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revise the counter-trade policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) what is the likely impact of the revised policy ; and

(d) by when is it likely to be revised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) An exercise to review the counter-trade policy has been undertaken in the Commerce Ministry and is expected to be completed during the current year, 1993-94. The new policy will aim at increasing Indian exports through the mechanism of counter-trade.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, counter-trade is a very, very important tool for increasing exports. I am a bit surprised at the answer that the Government is still formulating a scheme and it will be finalised during the year.

Sir, for the last two years, as the hon. Minister knows, exports has been a thrust area for this Government, especially in view of the New Economic Policy. I want to draw the attention of the Minister specially to the African countries and the Sub-Saharan countries which have a high potential for exports from India. But they are also facing the foreign exchange crunch. So, export from India to those countries is possible only if we can have counter-trade agreement with them. I want to know from the Minister whether a trade centre on the lines of Indian Trade Centre in Brussels would be opened in the African countries so that Africa, as a thrust area for exports, can be properly explored and India would be able to benefit from the exports to those countries.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Sir, I agree cent per cent with the hon. Member that we should improve counter-trade with the African countries and we will take all steps to improve it with the African countries.

So far as the question of opening a trade centre is concerned, it is a very good suggestion. We will look into it.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, my second supplementary is this. In view of the trade with the erstwhile Soviet Union—now the Commonwealth of Independent States—having suffered a severe setback because of the resource position there and in view of the new currency regime, I want to know from the Minister whether a specific study has been carried out as to how far we can supplement that loss of trade by counter-trade with other countries because hard currency trade is going on, there is a small increase, may be 4% or whatever it is. Since rebuilding our exports to the

Russian Federation as well as to the other independent States is rather difficult, we need to find other countries to trade in the form of counter-trade which is most logical and possible. I would like to know whether the Government has made a study that counter-trade is possible and we can make up whatever losses we have made because of the rupee trade.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Sir, improvement in the policy of counter-trade is a continuing process and we are on the job. In fact, this year also, as I have just mentioned in the answer, we are in the process of formulating our policy for the future. Counter-trade as such is a method of trade which is going to change the world. It has been increasing. According to an estimate, by the year 2000 AD, perhaps 50% of the entire world trade is going to be counter-trade. That has been the projection. So far as we are concerned, we are trying to increase our counter-trade, particularly because of the collapse of the USSR and because of our losses in counter-trade with them. We definitely are in consultation with the existing independent countries and all the other components of the erstwhile USSR for our counter-trade and also for trade in the general currency.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, we need foreign exchange and we need more to pay for the foreign debt that this country has. Therefore, we need to increase foreign trade.

It is very well known that most of the countries in the Western world are facing a serious economic crisis. As a result, there is a decline in the domestic demand of those countries. That is bound to affect India's exports to those countries. Therefore, in view of the fact that there is a growing economic crisis in those countries where we are mainly projecting our exports, I want to know what alternative plan the Government of India is taking or considering to increase our exports. That is part (a) of my question. The potential of this counter-trade or barter trade is there in the African countries, the potential is there in the other developing countries. Part (b) of my question is : What steps is the Government of India taking to improve our trade with the developing countries ? We seem to have been getting ourselves tied up with the dollar countries, with the third currency countries. What are the steps the Government of India is taking to improve our trade with the developing countries ?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Sir, this is a two-way matter. It is not just that we have to impose our counter-trade on the African countries. It is a matter that has to be accepted by them. What I can assure the hon. Member is that our efforts are there to improve the trade with the African countries, and wherever it is possible, where the payment problem is there, we are persuading them to have the counter-trade also. And I can assure the hon. Member that whatever may be the depressions in the world economy, our efforts are always there to make up that sort of a situation.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : I asked about the developing countries, not the African countries only.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Sir, I would like to say that it includes all the countries.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Sir, while I am not disputing as far as the importance of the counter-trade agreement is concerned, in the background of what the hon. Minister just said that 50 per cent is going to be the counter-trade, Sir, my concern is : Is the Government aware of the kind of irregularities that are going on and which had been going on in the past as well—and the commission being paid under the garb of counter-trade agreement ? Sir, I am referring to the MMTC and the STC. Is the Government aware that there has been some kind of a mini-scam there to the extent that even the commission does not come to India and it is being paid in foreign countries, be it Switzerland or any other country ? There are exporters who are already existing, who are not the manufacturers themselves. They take the garb of MMTC and STC. On the exports which are already going out, commission is paid, not to the STC or the MMTC but to the private parties. Is the Government aware of this practice which has been going on ? If the Government is aware of it, what is the Government doing to see to it that this nonsense is stopped and 4 per cent of our precious foreign exchange is not wasted like this ?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Sir, I assure the hon. Member that if there are any instances in his knowledge, he can just pass it on to me and I will take action.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : I have already written.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : So far as the general situation is concerned, earlier it was only the MMTC, the STC and the Projects Corporation which were the nominated agencies for counter-trade. Now, recently, the Reserve Bank has liberalised it to some extent. And even where the proposals are there from the private traders or private exporters also, the Reserve Bank is allowing them to have counter-trade. So, I don't think

that situation where the persons are compelled to go only through the MMTC or the STC is any more there.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : I have written a specific letter.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : I will take action.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, from the reply to the main question and the replies to the supplementaries, two facts come out. One is that the Government, as per the hon. Minister, is keen about this. However, they are still formulating a scheme, and there are difficulties. We cannot impose on other countries. And they are considering it. Now my point is that it is nearly more than three years that the counter-trade with the East European countries with the former Soviet Union also come to a close. And ever after two years that this Government has came into power, the answer is that only a scheme is being formulated and that there are problems. May I ask the hon. Minister as to why is it that they take such a long time when counter-trade is a known way of doing business ? And suggestions have been made that not only the sub-Saharan Africa but many other African countries have goods which can be useful to India which we import in the hard currency and the Government can also increase Indian exports. Why is it that they are taking such a long time ? What step is the Government taking to expedite the scheme and implement it ?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : The mode or the method of counter-trade is not a very fixed or a rigid sort of thing. There have been improvements on the methods and modes of the counter-trade. If you look at the progress that has been made in this regard—I am sure the hon. Member who comes from a very enlightened section of trade and industry will be aware of it—you will find that there has been a very substantial improvement in the counter-trade and we are doing this counter-trade in many commodities with a number of countries even with the countries which were part of the erst-while USSR. So, this process of improving and making amends to the present counter-trade policy is a continuous process. As I submitted earlier, if there are any good suggestion or advice. I am prepared to take the advice from the hon. Member.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : We can improve our trade with African countries and countries in the sub-Sahara region.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has answered this point earlier, if I remember.

Next question.

Losses Incurred by Airlines due to Bird-Hits

*324. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI † :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bird-hit cases reported in 1992 and during the first six months of 1993 together with the name of the places where these incidents have occurred ;

(b) the loss incurred by the airlines due to the bird-hits during the above period ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the authorities to prevent bird-hits ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) 127 bird-hit incidents involving Indian registered aircraft occured during 1992 and 45 during the first six months of 1993. The details are annexed as Annexure. (*See* below)

(b) So far as scheduled airlines are concerned, the expenditure on repair to aircraft damaged due to bird-hits amounted approximately to Rs. 110.95 lakhs during 1992 and Rs. 40.18 lakhs during the first six months of 1993.

(c) Measures such as removal of trees and shrubbery within aerodromes, levelling of airport operational areas and construction of effective drainage system to prevent water logging, pigeon-proofing of hangars and buildings, removal of cattle from air fields are taken to contain bird hazard. Control of garbage and carcas disposal is undertaken with the help of local authorities to keep the environment around the airports free from bird hazards to the extent possible.

Air Field Environment Management Committees have been set up at all airports to monitor bird hazard containment measures. Major airports also have Task Forces to oversee implementation. A High Level Committee headed by Secretary (Civil Aviation) also reviews implementation of bird hazard control measures from time to time.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi.